

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Serial No.: 10/815,684
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q75533

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~A vessel for transporting turbines, and at least one wind turbine base,~~ combination of a vessel and at least a wind turbine base transportable by the vessel, wherein the vessel has a loading space sized for receiving said ~~at least one~~ wind turbine base, which wind turbine base is in an upright position corresponding to an upright operating position of ~~the said~~ wind turbine base during placement on said loading space, said vessel having means for displacing ~~the said~~ wind turbine base from the loading space to an unloading position, said vessel having winches with at least three flexible lines with associated fastening means arranged for mounting on at least three lifting points on ~~the said~~ wind turbine base, which flexible lines are arranged at the unloading position so that their sections, when extending down to said lifting points on ~~the said~~ wind turbine base at said unloading position, are spaced apart in the horizontal direction, and wherein a ballast condition of the wind turbine base is ~~changed~~ variable for adjustment at said unloading position.

Claim 2 (original): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wind turbine base has a width, and said vessel has at the unloading position two projecting arms arranged at a mutual

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horizontal distance larger than the width of the wind turbine base, and that at least two of the flexible lines extend from the arms to the lifting points on the wind turbine base.

Claim 3 (original): A vessel according to claim 2, wherein each arm is associated with at least two flexible lines extending from the arm down to the lifting points on the wind turbine base.

Claim 4 (original): A vessel according to claim 3, wherein said two flexible lines extend down to the lifting points with a mutual distance in a longitudinal direction of the arm substantially corresponding to the length of the wind turbine base.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the means for displacing the wind turbine base comprise rails extending along a full length of the loading space of the vessel to the unloading position.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A vessel according to claims 1, wherein at least one of the winches with flexible lines used at the unloading position is part of the means for displacement of the wind turbine base from the loading space to the unloading position.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the vessel, in a condition of heavy draught, has a deck of the loading space located at such depth below the

water surface that ~~a~~the wind turbine base can float over the loading space and, in a transport condition with lighter draught, has the deck of the loading space located above the water surface, whereby the wind turbine based is carried by the vessel.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the vessel has ballast means for changing the ballast condition of the wind turbine base.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A vessel for transporting a wind turbine~~
combination of a vessel and at least a wind turbine base transportable by the vessel, wherein the vessel has a loading space sized for receiving said at least one wind turbine, said wind turbine base being in an upright position corresponding to an upright operating position of ~~the~~ said wind turbine base when placed on said loading space, said vessel having means for displacing ~~the~~ said wind turbine base from the loading space to an unloading position, said vessel having winches with at least three flexible lines with associated fastening means arranged for mounting on at least three lifting points on the wind turbine base, the flexible lines being arranged at the unloading position so that their sections extending down to mounting places on the wind turbine base are spaced apart in the horizontal direction, and a ballast condition of the wind turbine base ~~being changed~~ is variable for adjustment at said unloading position, and wherein the vessel has ballast means for changing the ballast condition of the wind turbine base, which ballast means comprise a pump system for liquid with a plurality of hoses configured for connection on the wind turbine base.

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Claim 10 (original): A vessel according to claim 9, wherein a hose automat with the hoses is displaceable in a longitudinal direction of the vessel.

Claim 11 (original): A vessel according to claim 8, wherein the turbine base has a number of ballast tanks, and the ballast means have a number of hose sets corresponding to the number of ballast tanks in the turbine base.

Claim 12 (original): A vessel according to claim 11, wherein the ballast means have at least four hose sets.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A vessel according to claim 11, wherein each hose set comprises a filling hose that can be connected to a liquid source and can preferably also be switched to an air source, and an emptying hose that can be supplied with pressurized liquid.

Claim 14 (original): A vessel according to claim 13, wherein each hose set has a sounding hose connected to a pneumatic pressure gauge.

Claim 15 (original): A vessel according to claim 8, wherein control of liquid and/or air supply to the hoses is remotely controlled from a control station having at least one control

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member, such as least one control member for each hose set, for adjustment of ballast changes in the wind turbine base.

Claim 16 (original): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein each of the flexible lines extends over an associated pulley suspended in a sensor for determination of the axial load in the line.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 16, wherein the axial loads measured in the lines are included as parameters in a control of ballast means for changing the ballast condition of the wind turbine base.

Claim 18 (original): A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the flexible lines are controlled to have axial loads of the lines of substantially the same magnitude.

Claims 19-41: (canceled).

Claim 42 (currently amended): A vessel for transporting wind turbines, combination of a vessel and at least a wind turbine base transportable by the vessel, wherein the vessel has a loading space sized for receiving at least one said wind turbine base, said wind turbine base being in an upright position corresponding to an upright operating position of the wind turbine base when placed on said loading space, said vessel having means for displacing the wind

turbine base from the loading space to an unloading position, said vessel having winches with at least three flexible lines with associated fastening means arranged for mounting on at least three lifting points on the wind turbine base, the flexible lines being arranged at the unloading position so that their sections extending down to mounting places on the wind turbine base are spaced apart in the horizontal direction, and ~~at least one~~ said wind turbine base which is divided into at least three chambers at least three of which act as ballast tanks, and wherein the vessel has ballast means for changing the ballast condition of ~~the~~ said wind turbine base at said unloading position.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 42, wherein said ballast means supply ballast to said at least three chambers acting as ballast tanks while the wind turbine base is held suspended in said at least three flexible lines from the vessel with at least most of the upper surface of the wind turbine base located above the sea surface.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 42, wherein said wind turbine base has a square shape at its lower part and a lifting fitting at each corner.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 42, wherein each of said chambers acting as a ballast tank has a filling pipe and an emptying pipe, the emptying pipe extending down near the bottom of the ballast tank.

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Claim 46 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 45, wherein each of said chambers acting as a ballast tank has a sounding pipe extending down near the bottom of the ballast tank.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A vessel according to claim 45, wherein said emptying pipe is provided with an ejector for suction of fluid from the ballast tank when the ejector is supplied with pressurized liquid.

Kindly add the following new claims:

Claim 48 (new): The vessel of claim 1, wherein said wind turbine base includes a tower, nacelle and rotor blades attached thereto.

Claim 49 (new): A vessel of claim 9, wherein said wind turbine base includes a tower, nacelle and rotor blades attached thereto.

Claim 50 (new): A vessel of claim 42, wherein said wind turbine base includes a tower, nacelle and rotor blades attached thereto.